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BARNARD CASTLE URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1961

A. S. M. WILSON, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.  
Assistant School Medical Officer.

September, 1962.



Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report for the year 1961.

During the year Dr. Paley concluded his long service with the Council on 8th July, and Dr. Coombs acted as Medical Officer of Health until my own experience of this office commenced on 1st October.

My first impressions are that this is a healthy district in which to live, and the several statistics relating to the Public Health during the year bear this out.

I would thank the Members of this Council for the help, encouragement and information so freely given from time to time. This was particularly valuable to me initially and has continued to be so.

#### Local Industries

These are mainly concerned with agriculture, but the factory operated by Messrs. Glaxo Laboratories Limited, in Harmire Road, which manufactures antibiotics and vitamins by fermentation processes and handles antibiotics in bulk filling, packing and despatch, affords employment for a large number of persons resident in the Urban and Rural Districts. The total number of persons employed at this factory at the end of the year was 682.

#### Water Supply

The water supply for domestic and other purposes was well maintained throughout the year from the Council's springs supply augmented as required during droughty periods or emergency by metered water from the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board mains.

The combined supplies resulted in satisfactory pressures being maintained in the higher areas of the town.

Negotiations between the Council and the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board regarding regrouping of water undertakings in accordance with Ministry of Housing and Local Government's circular proceeded during the year and reached a satisfactory conclusion.

The Council agreed that the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board take over the Council's water undertaking on 1st April, 1962.

#### Refuse Tip

The tipping of refuse on approximately three quarters of an acre of land fairly near to the highway was completed during the year. The area was covered with a layer of soil and sown with grass seed and fenced off for grazing.

Tipping proceeds in a north westerly direction resulting in the tipping face becoming further removed from the highway.

As soon as areas of the tip are filled, the resulting land east of the tipping face is from time to time covered with earth, seeded and the grazing area extended.

Land to the west of the tip not yet required for tipping purposes is let annually for grazing.

## Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

A report on the enlargement of the Sewage Works, prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers, which in addition to making provision for the town's estimated future requirements, also provided for accepting drainage from houses in Darlington Road in the Barnard Castle Rural District area and also the sewage from the village of Startforth in the Rural District of Startforth.

During the year, information was received from the Startforth Rural District Council that the Ministry has agreed for them to proceed with their own scheme for sewerage and sewage disposal for the village of Startforth.

It would not, therefore, be necessary for the Barnard Castle Urban District Council to make provision for any discharge or treatment of sewage from the Startforth Rural District Council's area.

The Council have accordingly instructed their Consulting Engineers to report on an amended scheme excluding any discharge or treatment of sewage from the Startforth Rural District Council's area.

## Closet Accommodation

Four dry closets were in use in the area at the end of the year. The other properties are all served with water closets.

## Housing

### Slum Clearance

The statutory return of unfit houses which the Council submitted to the Minister under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 covering the Council's programme for five years from 1st August 1955 covered 84 dwellings.

The position of the Council's Slum Clearance Programme at 31st December, 1961, is as follows:-

No. of houses in Confirmed Clearance Orders	60
No. of houses subject to Demolition Orders	9
Closing Orders made since the report	12
Houses demolished during the year as a result of Slum Clearance scheme or other formal action	6
Houses closed but not demolished	12
Houses in Clearance Areas and Individual Unfit Houses, demolition of which temporarily postponed	10

### Improvement Grants. Housing Acts 1949 - 1959.

Applications submitted during 1961 to Local Authority	7
Applications refused during 1961 by Local Authority	Nil
Total number of applications approved since inception of the scheme	62
Total number of grants paid since inception of the scheme	53

## New Dwellings

Six ground floor flats with six maisonettes above on the Bridgegate redevelopment scheme were completed by the North Eastern Housing Association Ltd. for the Council. Eleven privately built dwellings were completed and occupied during the year.



## Future Development by the Council

The second part of the Bridgegate redevelopment scheme covering 12 three bedroom houses were in an advanced state of construction at the end of 1961.

Plans were being formulated to rebuild on the site of 8 Thorngate Wynd and for infilling on the site of the Bridge Inn in Thorngate.

The number of applications on the Council's housing list at the end of the year was 141 compared with a figure of 162 at the end of 1960.

## Provision of dwellings by the Local Authority

	Owners	Situation	No. of Bedrooms				
			1	2	3	4	Total
Pre 1939	Barnard Castle U.D.C.	Dunelm Square	4	13	6	2	25
	North Eastern Housing Association Limited	Dunelm Square	10	-	-	-	10
		Dawson Road	-	22	14	8	44
		Total Pre 1939	14	35	20	10	79
Post 1939	Barnard Castle U.D.C.	Victoria Road	-	-	12	-	12
	North Eastern Housing Association Limited	Zetland Road	-	20	28	6	54
		Montalbo Road Estate	8	-	82	12	102
		Zetland Road Extension	6	20	13	-	39
		Green Lane Site	8	76	80	12	176
		The Bank Redevelopment	-	-	2	1	3
		Thorngate Redevelopment	1	-	1	-	2
		Bridgegate Redevelopment	-	22	18	-	40
		Total Post 1939	23	138	236	31	428
		GRAND TOTAL	37	173	256	41	507

## Confirmed Clearance Areas

Three dwellings in Clearance Areas made before 1939 were standing at the end of the year. Two of these in Grey Lane are to be demolished by the Council.

Post War Clearance Areas position at 31st December, 1961.

No. of Clearance Area	Date area confirmed	No. of Houses in area	No. of occupiers	No. of Houses in occupation	No. demolished	No. vacant
1	8.8.57	4	-	-	4	-
2	do	5	-	-	5	-
3	do	16	-	-	16	-
4	do	3	-	-	3	-
5	do	8	-	-	8	-
6	13.8.57	4	-	-	1	3
7	8.8.57	3	-	-	-	3
9	5.7.57	3	-	-	3	-
10	8.8.57	4	-	-	4	-
TOTALS		50	-	-	44	6

## Factories and Workshops

Sixty-four registered premises use mechanical power, therefore, the main health provisions of the relevant Acts are administered by the Factory Inspector. The local authorities' responsibilities for the closet accommodation did not require action during the year.

No written notice was found necessary for the ten premises on the register who do not use mechanical power.

The provision of closet accommodation on other places subject to the Factories Act, such as building sites, received attention and besides verbal requests, two written notices were served.

Six outworkers make up gloves in their homes, all of their premises are satisfactory.

## Tents and Caravans

In the early part of the year a caravan on the Lower Demesnes was being used unlawfully as living accommodation by a single man. This eventually caught fire and the resultant debris was removed.

Land at Orchard Brae, Flatts Woods, was the subject of an application under the Caravan Sites and Development Act, 1960, for six holiday caravans. Planning approval was refused for its use for caravans, but no objection from a planning angle was raised to this land being used as a camping ground for tents. A licence to use this site for not more than twenty tents at any time was issued for one year from 31st October, 1961.

An individual application for a licence for one residential caravan on a part of Field O.S. No. 2 at Red Well Inn was licensed on 6th July, 1961, the model conditions being applied.

### Red Well Inn. Remainder of Field O.S. No. 2.

This site already had planning approval for 20 holiday caravans and an application was received for six residential and fourteen holiday caravans under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. This was subsequently modified to an application for twenty holiday caravans and a licence was issued with conditions in accordance with the Model Standards specified under Section 5 of the Act. These conditions to be fully operational on 1st April, 1961. During the year efforts were made to have these conditions fully complied with, and eventually the site was cleared, layouts submitted and work started with a view to the site being ready for use on 1st April, 1962.

### Prospect Place Camping Ground, Field O.S. No. 58.

Application under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, for 30 residential caravans on this site was received. A licence for not more than 20 residential caravans with conditions in accordance with the Model Standards was issued on 6th July, 1961, all work necessary to make the site comply with these conditions to be done by 1st April, 1962. The applicant appealed to the Magistrates' Court against certain of these conditions. This appeal was heard on 4th September, 1961, and the Magistrates upheld the conditions with the exception of condition No. 15 which was modified to read as follows:-

"It is a condition of the licence that the holder of the licence shall, before the first day of April, 1963, carry out and complete all necessary work detailed in these conditions, to the satisfaction of the Council".

### Land part of Field O.S. No. 90.

The owner of this land at the rear of Birch Road applied for a licence under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

A licence was issued with conditions in accordance with the Model Conditions for two holiday caravans on this site. All work to be completed before 1st April, 1962.

## Rodent Control

The part-time operator attended to the infestations in private dwellings and business premises, treated the refuse tip and sewage work, but was unable to treat the sewers properly, due to pressure of work in other departments.

## Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

### Ice Cream.

No ice-cream is manufactured in the area, the thirty-six retailers sell pre-packed ice-cream.

### Meat.

Four slaughterhouses were licensed during the year. Under the Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order, 1959, 1st April, 1962, is fixed as the Appointed Day for the premises to be brought up to the standards required under The Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations 1958 and The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958.

At the end of the year three of the four slaughterhouse owners had made a start on alterations and fixing of the necessary equipment to make the premises comply with the regulations.

## Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in the year ending 31st December, 1961.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	797	4	99	2790	806
Number inspected	797	4	99	2747	806
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	2	1
Part of carcase or organ condemned	134	3	3	39	187
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	16.81	75.0	3.03	1.48	23.32
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Part of carcase or organ condemned	-	-	-	-	10
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.12
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Submitted for refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalized and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-



Table showing RAINFALL in inches in 1961  
Compiled from figures received from the Bowes Museum

<u>1961</u>	<u>Inches</u>
January	4.38
February	2.26
March	1.08
April	3.74
May	1.80
June	1.24
July	3.18
August	2.05
September	1.42
October	3.39
November	1.96
December	<u>3.27</u>
TOTAL	<u>29.77</u>

Average Rainfall	
5 years 1957 - 1961	32.20 inches
	29.77 1961
	39.63 1960
	24.89 1959
	36.06 1958
	30.67 1957

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres)	559
Population (Registrar General's Estimated figure - mid-year 1961)	5,290
Number of inhabited houses	1,668
Rateable value	£56,195
Sum represented by a penny rate (Financial year ended 31.3.61)	£203. 7. 8.



EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

			<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Live-Births</u>	Legitimate )	85	81	37	44
	Illegitimate )		4	2	2

Crude Birth-rate 16.1 per 1,000 home population.

Adjusted Rate 15.3 per 1,000 home population.

Corresponding Rate for England and Wales 17.4 per 1,000 home population.

			<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Still Births</u>	Legitimate )	2	2	1	1
	Illegitimate )		-	-	-

Still Birth-rate per 1,000 home population 0.38.

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>Deaths</u>		93	53	40

Crude Death-Rate 17.6 per 1,000 home population

Adjusted Rate 12.8 " " " " "

For England and Wales 12.0 " " " "

<u>Deaths of Infants under one year</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total	1	2
Legitimate	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-

<u>Deaths of Infants under Four Weeks</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total	1	-
Legitimate	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-

Death-rate of Infants under One Year

All Infants  
(per 1,000 live births) 35

For England and Wales

Death-rate 12.00  
Birth-rate 17.4  
Infant Mortality Rate 21.6

Causes of Death

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cancer (all types)	7	7	14
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	5	15
Coronary disease, angina	9	5	14
Other heart disease	13	9	22
Other circulatory disease	4	6	10
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Bronchitis	4	1	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	2	4
All other accidents	2	2	4
Suicide	-	-	-
	<u>53</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>93</u>

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

216 cases of infectious or notifiable disease were notified during the year, as follows:-

Whooping Cough	4
Measles	211
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1

There were no cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria.

### Poliomyelitis vaccination scheme.

During the year vaccination continued to be available to all persons in all groups up to 40 years. The greater proportion of children and other persons are now vaccinated by the private practitioners at their own surgeries, but facilities continue to be available for the injections to be given at Welfare or School Clinics if the parents desire it. In the case of children of school age and under, the response continues to be satisfactory, but there is still room for improvement at all age groups.

There have been no cases of poliomyelitis during the past few years.

### Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts Poliomyelitis Vaccination Scheme

Number vaccinated with two injections during the years:

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
Children born in years since 1943	693	495
Young persons born in years 1932-1942	265	137
Persons born before 1933 who have not passed their 40th birthday	310	318
Priority groups and over 40 years	<u>11</u>	<u>25</u>
	<u>1,279</u>	<u>975</u>

The total number of persons who received third injections during the year was 765, making a total of 5,512 since the inception of the scheme. Fourth injections were received by 1,002 persons during the year.

### B. C. G. VACCINATION.

During the year the County Council continued the scheme for vaccination with B.C.G. vaccine of certain categories of schoolchildren. This vaccine has been used for some years as a preventive against tuberculosis and it has been found that a high proportion of those vaccinated receive protection for a period of at least 5 years. The procedure is to administer a preliminary skin test, and those found to be negative to the test are then inoculated, provided there are no current contra-indications.

The children eligible for vaccination are those aged 12 years and upwards who are still at school.

Details of tests and vaccinations carried out during the year are as follows:

School	Consents	Given Skin Tests	Positive Reactors	Negative Reactors Given B.C.G.	No. absent at time of readings
Barnard Castle Modern	126	118	17	92	9

Infectious Diseases notified during current years

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Scarlet Fever	5	2	1	2	2	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	117	4	37	105	122	-	6	3	211
Whooping Cough	23	-	3	44	19	2	14	2	4
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia	3	1	2	2	6	4	7	-	-
Erysipelas	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	1	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

Diphtheria Immunisation

Immunisation, either singly or in combination, against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus is available at Infant Welfare Clinics, or children can be taken to their own doctors for this purpose.

The number of children aged under 15 who received a primary course of diphtheria immunisation either singly or in combination by 31st December, 1961, totalled 72.

Diphtheria Immunisation Return for the year  
ended 31st December, 1961.

	0 - 4 yrs.	5 - 14 yrs.	Total
Numbers of children who completed a course of primary immunisation against diphtheria either singly or in combination during the year ended 31st December, 1961, by age groups	64	8	72
Number given re-inforcing injections during the year either singly or in combination	1	33	34

Tuberculosis

One new case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified during the year, the patient being a male aged 47 years.



## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

### Public Health Staff -

The post of Medical Officer of Health is part time, forming an apportionment of a Joint Appointment in the Barnard Castle area of the County. Approximately one-half day a week is spent in the service of this Council and one and a half days in the service of the Rural District Council. The balance of the weekly work is carried out for the County Council in administrative and clinical duties.

The day to day running of the Public Health Department is in the experienced hands of the Public Health Inspector, Mr. Edgar Dixon.

A County Health Visitor resides near the town, and part of her time is allocated to the School Health Service.

### Hospitals

There are no special hospitals for Tuberculosis, Midwifery, Paediatrics, or Infective Diseases in the area.

The Richardson Memorial Convalescent Home, which was taken over during the war under the Emergency Medical Services Hospitals Scheme, is now used as a Convalescent Holiday Home for patients from hospitals in the County of Durham, North Riding of Yorkshire and the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Negotiations are in progress between the Trustees of the Home and the Regional Hospital Board with a view to the Home being taken over by the Hospital Board for use under the National Health Service.

### Ambulance Facilities

Barnard Castle urban area is served by two ambulance depots, two ambulances and four driver-attendants.

#### Summary of work done by vehicles stationed in the urban and rural districts

<u>Year</u>	<u>Journeys</u>	<u>Stretcher cases</u>	<u>Sitting cases</u>	<u>Total cases</u>	<u>Mileage</u>
1960	1,185	609	4,741	5,350	67,706
1961	1,055	506	4,511	5,017	62,835

In addition to the above, patients residing in the urban and rural districts are also conveyed by vehicles from neighbouring depots and by the Darlington Ambulance Service, as occasion demands. Information regarding these cases can not be conveniently supplied, as records are not maintained in sanitary district order.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer's Ambulance Department, Durham, for the above information.

### Home Nursing

Under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authorities became responsible for the provision of a Home Nursing Service as from 5th July, 1948. The agreement concluded with the Durham County Nursing Association, whereby the Durham County Council delegated this aspect of their functions to the Association, ceased to exist on 1st April, 1954, and the County Council took over direct administration from this date.

Direct control was also assumed by the County Council of the arrangements made for the provision of a domiciliary midwife service.

Both services are available free of charge.



Services are provided for this area by two District Nurse Midwives resident in the town.

Miss L. H. Dodd,  
4, Montgomery Road,  
Barnard Castle.

Telephone No.  
Barnard Castle 2149.

Mrs. M. L. Morton,  
3, Harmire Road,  
Barnard Castle.

Telephone No.  
Barnard Castle 3156.

#### Midwifery Service

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
No. of Midwifery and Maternity Cases	47	61
No. of Hospital patients discharged before the 14th day	14	11

#### Home Nursing Service

	<u>1960</u>		<u>1961</u>	
	<u>Patients</u>	<u>Visits</u>	<u>Patients</u>	<u>Visits</u>
<u>Cases</u>				
Medical	78	1,420	94	1,444
Surgical	19	411	21	452
Tuberculosis	5	263	1	341
	102	2,094	116	2,237
Percentage of the above totals aged 65 yrs. or over	78%	81%	71%	80%
Percentage of the above totals who were under 5 yrs. of age	< 1%	< 1%	< 3%	1%

There is a small Nursing Home at 32, Bede Road (Proprietress - Hilda Smurthwaite, S.R.N., S.C.M.) chiefly for maternity cases.

#### Clinic and Treatment Centres

An Infant Welfare Clinic and a School Clinic are held on alternate weeks at the Trinity Methodist Schoolroom, Barnard Castle, under the administration of the County Council.

#### Area Health Sub-Committee

The Committee, of which three members of the Council are members, met on four occasions during the year, and the County Medical Officer's reports were considered.

In the preparation of this Report, I have received considerable help from Mr. Dixon, Mr. White and other members of the Urban District Staff, for which I am grateful.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. S. M. WILSON, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.,  
L.R.F.P.S., D.P.H.

